

## Hours

**Beaches open** at 7 a.m., except West Beach, which opens at 9 a.m. Memorial Day through Labor Day. After Labor Day and until Memorial Day, West Beach opens at 7 a.m. Visitors without vehicles may enjoy West Beach beginning at 6 a.m. Central Beach's parking lot and facilities are closed mid-November through mid-April. All **beaches close** at dusk.

## Fees

**West Beach** fees are: \$6 per car, \$30 per bus, \$1 per pedestrian or bicyclist; summer only. Fees are not charged at other beaches.

## Facilities and Activities

**Restrooms** are available at all beaches.

**Showers** are available at West Beach.

A **picnic shelter** with grills is available at West Beach.

Swimming is allowed at all beaches; only West Beach has lifeguards.

**Hiking trails** are offered at West Beach, Cowles Beach, Kemil Beach, and Mount Baldy.

**Parking** is plentiful at West Beach but limited at other beaches.

West Beach, Porter Beach, and Dunbar Beach are **accessible**; other beaches are not.

## Regulations

**Alcohol** is prohibited at West Beach and Porter Beach.

**Pets** are prohibited on all beaches from Memorial Day through Labor Day, except Mount Baldy and Central Beach. Pets are prohibited year-round at Porter Beach. Pets must be on a leash of a maximum length of six feet.

**Roller skates and sand boards** are prohibited at all park sites.

**Glass containers** are prohibited at all beaches.

**Grilling** is allowed only at Lake View and West Beach picnic areas in approved or provided containers.

**Collecting** any natural or cultural item is prohibited in this and all other units of the National Park System.



## Beach Activities For Families with Children

Children, ages 4 and older,  
lead your family on a special adventure and become a  
**Beachcombers Junior Ranger!**



- Step #1:** Stop by the Dorothy Buell Memorial Visitor Center at Highways 20 and 49 for your free Junior Ranger activity guide.
- Step #2:** Select any of the national lakeshore's eight beaches for your special family adventure.
- Step #3:** Complete the beach activities in the guide.
- Step #4:** Return to the visitor center to receive your Beachcombers Junior Ranger award!
- Tip:** If the visitor center is not convenient, look for a National Park Ranger on the beach. Rangers sometimes have Junior Ranger activity guides and awards with them.

## For More Information

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore  
1100 North Mineral Springs Road  
Porter IN 46304  
219-926-7561  
[www.nps.gov/indu](http://www.nps.gov/indu)

## The Eight Beaches Of Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore



*Sunbathe on a sandy beach, enjoy the refreshing waters of Lake Michigan, or gaze at the fiery orange sun setting over Chicago's skyline. These experiences await you at Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore.*



1 West Beach

At the beach splash in the water, build a sandcastle, and stroll the three miles of open beach. Admire and photograph the scenic vistas of sweeping dunes and Lake Michigan.

Beyond the beach grill a delicious meal at a picnic shelter, and then walk the marked trails that traverse dunes and forest. Learn how plant and animal communities are replacing one another through time. Watch migrating waterfowl at Long Lake during the autumn and spring.

2 Cowles Beach

At the beach skip stones, examine driftwood, and observe the sea-rocket and bug seed plants growing in the sand at this isolated, sandy beach. Enjoy sharing the beach with boaters who set anchor here.

To and from the beach, hike the four-mile-round-trip trail that leads you through an open forest of scattered black oak trees and invites you to walk up tall sand dunes on your way back to the parking area. Bring binoculars for bird watching.

3 Porter Beach

At the beach chase waves or relax to the sound of soothing waves lapping up onto the shore of this accessible beach.

4 Kemil Beach

At the beach search for small shells, smooth stones, and brightly colored glass. Remember you must leave all natural treasures at the beach.

Beyond the beach hike the half-mile Dune Ridge Trail starting at the south edge of the parking lot.

5 Dunbar Beach

At the beach swim, chase the waves, gaze at the setting sun, and enjoy a picnic dinner at this lesser-known, accessible beach.

6 Lake View

At the Beach admire Lake Michigan’s magnificent blue colors from Lake View’s accessible deck while having breakfast at the picnic tables. Meander down to the beach for an early morning stroll or jog. Arrive early as parking is limited during warm seasons.

7 Central Beach

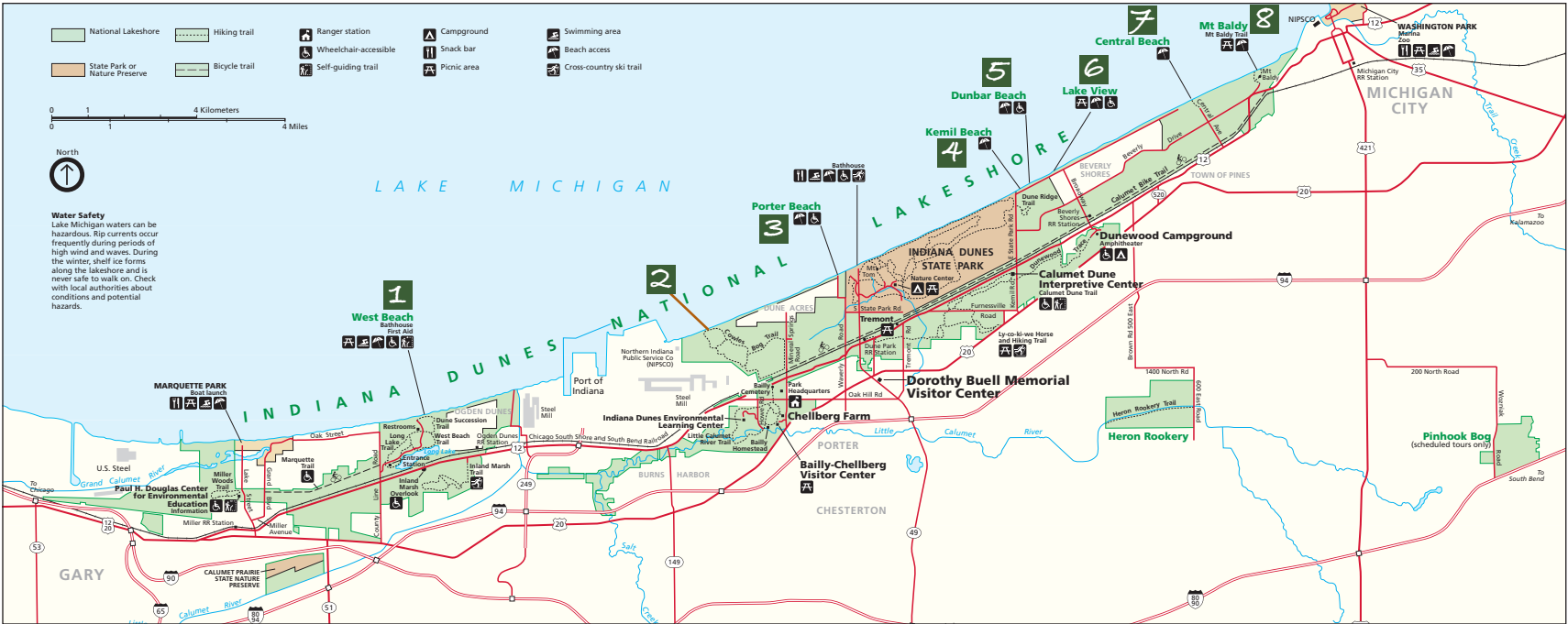
At the beach swim, picnic, listen to the singing sands, and stare in awe at the steep dune cliffs.

Beyond the beach walk the one mile of beach that leads to Mount Baldy.

8 Mount Baldy

At the beach catch your breath, jump into the lake, and cool off after you have walked the designated trails to Mount Baldy.

Beyond the beach marvel at the stunning view of Lake Michigan and the forested dunes from atop Mount Baldy—the national lakeshore’s largest moving dune, which stands 126 feet tall. Relax before hiking on the dune trails back to the parking lot. Look for cliff swallows in the steep banks.



From the Ranger

When hiking the dunes,

Bring plenty of water and wear sunscreen.

Keep off the grass mounds to protect the dunes.

Stay on marked trails to protect the plants and animals of the dunes.

When enjoying the beach,

Bring plenty of water, and wear a hat, shoes, sunscreen, and sunglasses.

Watch for strong winds blowing away from the beach that hijack rafts and beach toys.

Do not feed the seagulls! Human food is unhealthy for gulls and encourages them to flock. When they flock, they dirty the beach.

Stay out of the water when signs are posted to alert you to high bacteria counts. The bacteria may harm your health.

Deadly Rip Currents!

Stay out of water when high waves are breaking.

Swim in view of lifeguards.

Swim parallel to the shore to escape a rip current or float until you are free of the current, and then swim back to the shore.

Call for help if you see a struggling swimmer.